

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3305

January 18, 2013

**Restore States' Rights on National Monument Designations:
Cosponsor the *Preserve Land Freedom for Americans Act***

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to cosponsor the Preserve Land Freedom for Americans Act, which amends the Antiquities Act to require state approval for presidential designations of national monuments. My amendment to the Sportsmen's Heritage Act with similar language passed the House with bipartisan support last year.

In 2010, an Interior Department memo outlining more than a dozen locations in eleven western states under consideration as potential national monuments through the President's unilateral authority under the Antiquities Act was leaked. Recently, there have been proposals for a new national monument in Utah totaling over 1.4 million acres. If approved, these new federal land designations would occur without input from the states and communities in which they would be located. They also jeopardize potential energy resource development, increase restrictions on land use, and violate states' rights.

Established in 1906, the Antiquities Act was originally enacted in response to specific concerns regarding archaeological sites and included a provision requiring monuments to be of "the smallest area compatible with proper care and management." In recent decades, however, it has been used to restrict millions of acres for impermissibly broad purposes such as general conservation and scenic protection. Monument designations should be subject to state approval in order to ensure that states – not only the administration – have a say in what is best for their residents.

We must ensure consideration of the local impact of new presidential monument designations. Not only does our national security depend on our ability to develop domestic energy resources and our economy depend on the jobs created by such development, but states also have a fundamental right as sovereign states to participate in the decision making process on lands within their jurisdiction. Please consider joining me as a cosponsor of this important legislation. To learn more or to cosponsor, please contact Cyrus Artz at 202-225-2071 or cyrus.artz@mail.house.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress